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## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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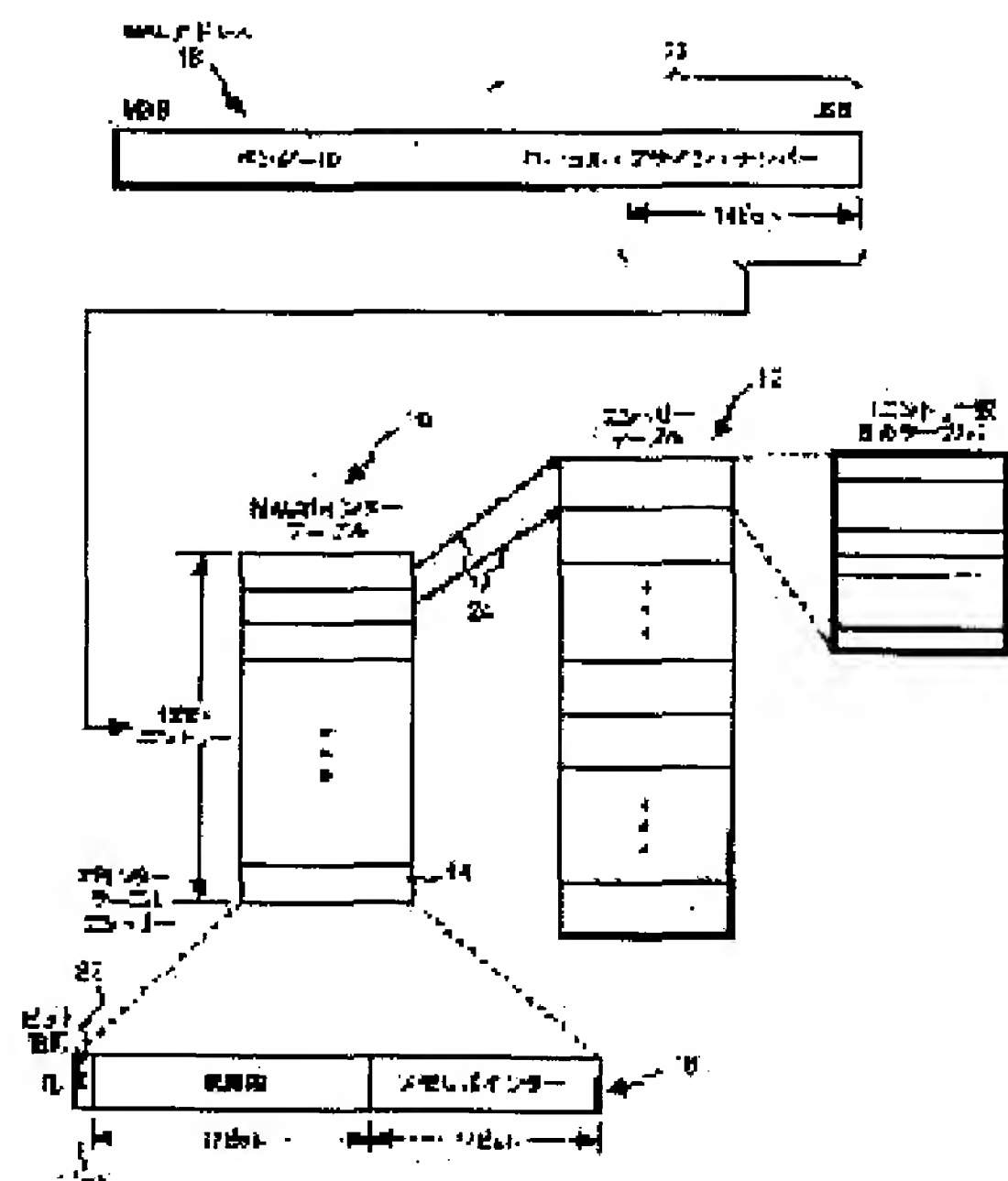
(21)Application number : 2002-168178 (71) INTERNATL BUSINESS MACH CORP  
 (22)Date of filing : 10.06.2002 Applicant : <IBM>  
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## (54) MAC ADDRESS POINTER STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR REARRANGING MAC ADDRESS

## (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To fast retrieve an optional MAC (media access control) address among a large number of MAC addresses in a large-scale switch, or the like used in a network.

SOLUTION: The structure of a MAC pointer table 10 is provided which has the number of entries of N bits (e.g. 14 bits) selected from among bits constituting an MAC address 18, wherein each of the entries 14 includes a pointer for designating an entry table 12 of the MAC address 18, and the pointer is composed of N bits (e.g., 14 bits) of the MAC address 18.



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